

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the first aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~ is a packaging apparatus that manufactures a package wherein ~~[[an]]~~ a foodstuff article to be packaged and an inert ~~[[a]]~~ gas are sealed in a ~~flexible~~ packaging material. The packaging apparatus includes an introducing unit through which the article to be packaged and the gas are supplied to the packaging material formed in a tubular shape, and a first sealing mechanism that seals the tubular packaging material to manufacture a package containing the article and the gas. The , wherein the package is manufactured in which a gas has a temperature different from lower than the outside air, when the gas and the article to be packaged are sealed. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 29 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the second aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 2~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the first aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~, comprising a gas temperature modifying unit that changes a temperature of a gas. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the third aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 3~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the second aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~, in which ~~comprising~~ the gas temperature modifying unit ~~that~~ changes the temperature of the gas by changing the temperature of the article to be packaged. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 17 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the fourth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 4~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the second aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~, in which ~~comprising~~ the gas temperature modifying unit ~~that~~ changes the temperature of the gas by changing the temperature of the flexible packaging material. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the fifth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 5~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the second aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~, in which the ~~comprising an introducing unit and the gas temperature modifying unit.~~ ~~The introducing unit introduces the article to be packaged and the gas inside the flexible packaging material.~~ The gas temperature modifying unit changes the temperature of the gas by changing the temperature of the introducing unit. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the sixth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 6~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the first aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 1~~, comprising a forming unit and a gas temperature modifying unit. The forming unit tubularly forms the flexible packaging material, ~~and introduces the article to be packaged and the gas inside the flexible packaging material tubularly formed.~~ The gas temperature modifying unit changes the temperature of the gas by changing the temperature of the forming unit. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the seventh aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 7~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in any one ~~claim~~ of the first Claim 1 through sixth aspects of the present invention ~~Claim 6~~, further comprising a control unit that controls the temperature and amount of the gas in the sealed package. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the eighth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 8~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in any one ~~claim~~ of the first Claim 1 through seventh aspects of the present invention ~~Claim 7~~, wherein the gas sealed inside the sealed package ~~flexible packaging material~~ has a temperature lower than that of the outside air. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 13 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the ninth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 9~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the first aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 8~~, further comprising a sealing unit and a pair of ironing parts. The sealing unit hermetically seals the flexible packaging material by sealing the flexible packaging material tubularly formed. The pair of ironing parts irons the portion of the ~~flexible~~ packaging material to be sealed, and the vicinity thereof. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 32 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging apparatus as recited in the tenth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 10~~ is the packaging apparatus as recited in the first aspect of the present invention

~~Claim 1~~, further comprising a transporting unit, and a second longitudinal sealing unit, an introducing unit, and a transverse sealing unit. The transporting unit transports the flexible packaging material tubularly formed downward. The second longitudinal sealing unit seals a longitudinal edge, parallel to the transport direction, of the transported tubular flexible packaging material. ~~The introducing unit introduces the article to be packaged and the gas inside the flexible packaging material.~~ The first transverse sealing unit seals the flexible packaging material in the transverse direction, which is perpendicular to the transport direction. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging method as recited in the eleventh aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 11~~ is a packaging method for manufacturing a package wherein articles to be packaged and a gas are sealed in a flexible packaging material, including steps of providing a tubular packaging material, supplying the article to be packaged in the tubular packaging material, supplying the gas in the tubular packaging material, sealing the tubular packaging material to manufacture a package containing the article and the gas, and changing a temperature of the gas before or after the supplying of the gas in the tubular packaging material, such that the ~~wherein the package is manufactured wherein a gas has~~ having a temperature different from the outside air, when the gas and the article to be packaged are sealed. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 30 with the following rewritten version:

-- A packaging system as recited in the twelfth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 12~~ comprises a packaging apparatus, and a gas temperature modifying unit. The packaging apparatus manufactures a package wherein ~~[[an]]~~ a foodstuff article to be packaged and ~~[[a]]~~ an inert gas are sealed in a flexible packaging material. The packaging apparatus includes an introducing unit through which the article to be packaged and the gas are supplied to the

packaging material formed in a tubular shape; and a first sealing mechanism that seals the tubular packaging material to produce a package containing the article and the gas. The gas temperature modifying unit is ~~provided inside the packaging apparatus or provided separate from the packaging apparatus.~~ The gas temperature modifying unit changes the temperature of the gas before the gas is being sealed in the package. Further, the packaging apparatus manufactures the package wherein the gas having a temperature lower than that of different ~~from~~ the outside air, and the article to be packaged are sealed. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 24 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the thirteenth aspect of the present invention Claim 13 is the packaging system as recited in the twelfth aspect of the present invention Claim 12, further comprising a thermal application unit. The thermal application unit performs thermal application processing on the manufactured package. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 31 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the fourteenth aspect of the present invention Claim 14 is the packaging system as recited in the thirteenth aspect of the present invention Claim 13, wherein the thermal application unit has a thermostatic chamber that warms the package. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the fifteenth aspect of the present invention Claim 15 is the packaging system as recited in the thirteenth aspect Claim 13, wherein the thermal application unit blows hot air onto the package. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the sixteenth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 16~~ is the packaging system as recited in any one ~~claim~~ of the thirteenth ~~Claim 13~~ through fifteenth aspects of the present invention ~~Claim 15~~, further comprising a postprocessing checking apparatus that performs postprocessing checking of the package. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 27 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the seventeenth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 17~~ is the packaging system as recited in the sixteenth aspect ~~Claim 16~~, further comprising a control unit. The control unit controls the gas temperature modifying unit based on detection information produced by ~~in~~ the postprocessing checking apparatus. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4 with the following rewritten version:

-- The packaging system as recited in the eighteenth aspect of the present invention ~~Claim 18~~ is the packaging system as recited in the sixteenth aspect ~~Claim 16~~, further comprising the control unit. The control unit controls the thermal application unit based on detection information produced by ~~in~~ the postprocessing checking apparatus. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 7 with the following rewritten version:

-- The tube 300 is a cylindrical member, open at the upper and lower ends. The tube 300 is integrated with the shoulder 301 via a bracket (not shown). Because the weighed

foodstuffs and the like are fed from the weighing apparatus 2 into the upper end opening of this tube 300, the tube 300 is conical with a wider upper end opening. The lower end of the tube 300 plunges inside the film F formed in a tubular bag shape, and foodstuffs and the like are introduced into the film F. In addition, as shown in FIG. 4, a long plate material 302 is vertically provided on the inner side of the tube 300 spanning from the vicinity of the upper part to the lower end of the tube 300, and a gas passageway 303 is formed extending vertically between the plate material 302 and the inner surface of the tube 300. This gas passageway 303 is provided for the purpose of substituting the air inside the bag shaped film with gas. The upper end of this gas passageway 303 is closed by the bending of the plate material 302 and its connection to the inner surface of the upper part of the tube 300. In addition, at the upper part of the tube 300, an entrance 304 is formed that passes through to the upper part of the gas passageway 303, and to which a gas supply pipe is connected. The lower part of the gas passageway 303 is open and reaches the lower end of the tube 300. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 28 with the following rewritten version:

-- In the abovementioned first embodiment, the gas is cooled through the cooling unit 6 before being sent to the former 30; however, it is also acceptable to provide a mechanism that cools the gas passageway 303 of the former 30, and to cool the gas when it passes through the gas passageway 303. Furthermore, it is also acceptable to provide a mechanism that cools the shoulder 301 of the former 30, and to cool the gas when it passes through the shoulder 301. --